

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY PROTECTION USING THE MICROPROCESSOR  
SERIAL NUMBER**

**Abstract of the Invention**

In order to prevent unauthorized usage of a software  
5 program, the software program is encrypted using at least a  
part of a serial number or other identifying number stored  
in the processing unit as the encryption key. The software  
program is stored in encrypted form in the processing unit  
memory. When the processing unit requires the use of the  
10 software program, the program is encrypted using the  
internally stored serial or identifying number.